

IN THE SPECIFICATION

At page 1, on a separate line appearing immediately after the title, insert:

This application is a continuation U.S. Application No. 09/461,052, filed December 15, 1999.

The paragraph appearing at page 4, lines 11-21 has been amended as follows:

It is still yet another aspect of the invention to adjust the power levels in each output channel from a demultiplexer in a WDM optical communication system on a per-channel basis, with each such output channel including an optical amplifier, with each such amplifier receiving a predetermined pump power for operating each such amplifier in the saturation mode, with the pump power being provided from either a predetermined power per-channel pump for each amplifier, or a single shared pump which supplies the predetermined power to each channel amplifier, wherein one or more of the pumps also are referred to as a "controller".

The paragraph appearing from page 9, line 14 to page 10, line 17 has been amended as follows.

In Fig. 2, an optical communication system 30 has an optical facility signal comprising multiple channels of different wavelengths input on a single fiber 32 demultiplexed into its constituent wavelengths λ_1 - λ_n by a demultiplexer 34, which are then applied to optical amplifiers 36a-36n, respectively in an OXC 37. Although Fig. [[3]]

2 shows only one input and one output fiber, each bearing n wavelengths, in general there may be more than one such input fiber and one such output fiber and associated demultiplexers and multiplexers, respectively. The output power level of each of the optical amplifiers 36a-36n is at a predetermined power level independent of channel wavelength and input power level due to those amplifiers also being operated in the saturation mode. This will be described in more detail later with respect to Figs. 4 and 5. The respective amplified channel wavelengths are then applied to the core 38 of the OXC 37, and then the respective wavelengths are applied from the core 38 to optical amplifiers 40a-40n in OXC 37. The output power level of each of the optical amplifier 40a-40n are each at a predetermined power level due to those amplifiers also being operated in the saturation mode. The respective amplified channel wavelengths from OXC 37 are then multiplexed by multiplexer [[44]] 42 into a multiple channel facility signal which is output on a single fiber 44.